

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9, 11, 12, 14-18 and 20-21 are now pending in the application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9, 11, 12, 14-18 and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has amended the claims to improve clarity. Claims 1-7, 9, 11, 12, 14-18 and 20-21 are now respectfully submitted to be definite.

Applicants appreciate the courtesy of a telephonic interview accorded by the Examiner on September 21, 2007. In the interview, the claims language was discussed to correct several informalities. Claim 16 and U.S. Patent No. 5,475,598 to Fushimi et al. were discussed. The Examiner tentatively agreed that the discussed clarifications of the claim language would overcome the cited reference.

Claim 16 was rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by Fushimi et al. This reference describes a recommended route guide apparatus which utilizes multiple start and end points, in which a location setting device is used to set departure and destination points.

Claim 16, on the other hand, recites a data product for updating a map data processing apparatus, having a link ID used to identify each of the links within a given map scaling factor. The link ID is configured to include a combination of the node position information related to the latitude and

longitude, and a linking parameter identifying corresponding nodes with a lower map scaling factor of a node at one end of a target link and the node position information related to the latitude and longitude, and a linking parameter identifying corresponding nodes with the lower map scaling factor of a node at another end of the target link. Claims 16 and 17 were amended to more clearly define the invention. The claimed "link ID" is supported by the as-filed specification, particularly the text between page 24, line 18 and page 26, line 8, as well as on page 41, lines 10-24.

As discussed during the telephonic interview, there is no description or suggestion in Fushimi et al. to define a link ID using a start point node and an end point node of a link string, based on a level correspondence key for each node, the level correspondence key combining two dimensional coordinates (for example latitude and longitude) of each node with lower order level identifiers and normalized coordinates (relating to a larger scaling factor of the map).

At least because of the distinctions discussed above, claim 16 is respectfully submitted to be allowable. Claims 17 and 18 depend from allowable claim 16, and at least for that reason are also submitted to be allowable. All the outstanding issues having been addressed, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

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If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #029267.56084US).

Respectfully submitted,

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